

Columbia County

Parks and Recreation Department

Community Profile

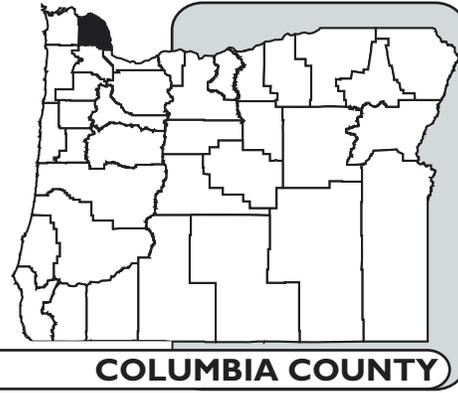
Population 46,220 (Columbia County)

Location St. Helens

Position Description

Sponsor Columbia County Parks and Recreation Department

Supervisor Lorraine Churchill,
Parks Supervisor



Assignment The RARE participant will work with Columbia County Parks on completion of the Columbia County Forests, Parks, and Recreation Master Plan. The creation of the master plan will involve research related to the cost feasibility of planned facilities, as well as discussions and meetings with citizens, agencies, property owners, and advisory committees. Once completed, the master plan must be adopted by the Board of County Commissioners, and will not only prioritize the needs of the park system, but will also help the county secure funding for identified projects through grants. Grant research and writing are major components of the position and are essential for the development of new park amenities. The RARE participant will also be working on a marketing plan for the county's parks as the Parks Advisory Commission has identified the need to increase the public's awareness of the area's parks as essential for the success of the park system. The participant will be responsible for updating the county's website, networking, and advertising to gain support and recognition of the recreational opportunities available in Columbia County.

Required Skills The ideal RARE participant for this position should have strong planning skills with a background in natural resources or recreation and should be able to visualize concepts. The participant should be a strong communicator, both verbally and in writing. S/he will need to craft effective reports and visual aids and will have to work with diverse stakeholders, including several groups and committees.

RARE Participant



Erika Owen

Erika Owen, a native of central Florida, attended Florida State University and earned a bachelor of science in international affairs with a concentration in geography. Upon graduation, she moved to Los Angeles and worked for the City of Santa Monica's Environmental Programs Division and helped develop a sustainable city plan, and an ecological footprint analysis. Erika then moved back to Florida to work with Polk County's Long Range Planning Division as a planner where she analyzed comprehensive plan amendments (land use changes), school siting requirements, and multiple development projects. With close to two years of professional planning experience, she realized her desire to further her education and moved to the Pacific Northwest for new experiences.